



I. AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 43 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims.

44. (New) A method for analyzing and arthropod sample for the presence of one or more analytes associated with an arthropod-carried agent that causes a disease in mammals, said method comprising the steps of:

- Sub B*
- (a) obtaining an arthropod sample suspected of containing arthropods;
 - (b) treating the sample to remove the arthropod-carried agent from the arthropods thereby exposing an analyte associated with the arthropod-carried agent;
 - (c) contacting a liquid permeable support with the sample from step (b) and a detectable analyte-specific reagent that binds to the analyte to form an analyte - reagent complex, wherein said support further comprises a capture reagent immobilized therein that binds to the analyte or the analyte-specific reagent or the analyte-specific reagent complex; and
 - (d) detecting the presence of the detectable analyte-specific reagent indicating the presence of the analyte in the sample.

II. REMARKS

Claim 44 has been introduced to more specifically recite a preferred embodiment of the method of the present invention. Support for this new claim can be found throughout the specification, and the originally filed claims. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced.

The invention of claim 44 relates to a method for detecting analytes associated with arthropod-carried agents. These agents can be any arthropod-carried agents and include protozoans as well as various viruses known to be spread by arthropods. As indicated in the new claim, the method is generic for all arthropod-carried agents. Although the Examiner may find that the amendment submitted herein renders the restriction requirement moot, Applicants hereby traverse the restriction requirement on the basis that the species are not patentably distinct. Applying the method to detect malaria-associated plasmodium (Group I), togavirus (Group II) or Ross River virus (Group III) would be obvious variants of one another. However, in order to